

V.—Notes on Indian Snakes in Captivity.
Communicated by Dr. GÜNTHER.

OBSERVATIONS on living tropical snakes are so scarce that the following notes, which appeared in the 'Administration Report of the Madras Government Museum for the year 1896-97' (an official document not generally accessible to zoologists), seem to deserve to be brought to the notice of a wider circle of herpetologists.

Although the observations were made on specimens kept in captivity in the Madras Museum, they are of value, as the snakes are living under more natural climatic conditions than those kept in the zoological gardens of Europe. The observations cover the financial year from 1st April, 1896, to 31st March, 1897.

"Python (*Python molurus*) ate 59 jerboa rats (*Gerbillus indicus*), 2 quails, and 8 squirrels in the year. Shed its skin on the 12th April, 2nd July, and 17th December, 1896.

"Rat-snake (*Zamenis mucosus*) ate 135 green frogs in the year. Shed its skin 22nd April, 18th May, 15th June, 8th July, 5th August, 5th September, 5th October, 7th November, 14th December, 1896, 17th January and 27th February, 1897, *i. e.* in every month.

"Whip-snake (*Dryophis mycterizans*).—One lived up to 11th December, 1896, and ate 44 mice and 6 green frogs and toads. A new snake was procured on the 31st January, 1897, which ate only 1 mouse up to the end of the official year. The first one cast its skin on the 28th May, 9th August, and 25th October, 1896, *i. e.* in every three months.

"Sand-snake (*Eryx Johnii*) ate 17 rats in the year. Cast its skin on the 24th April, 28th June, 18th September, 1896, and 14th January, 1897.

"Sand-snake (*Gongylophis conicus*) ate 65 rats in the year. Cast its skin on the 30th April, 4th June, 22nd July, and 4th October, 1896.

"*Tropidonotus stolatus* ate 130 frogs. Cast its skin on the 28th June, 6th July, 27th July, 3rd September, 14th December, 1896, 18th January and 27th February, 1897. Laid one egg on the 17th August, one on the 20th August, two on the 22nd August, three on the 12th September, three on the 14th September, one on the 15th September, and three on the 18th September, 1896.

"Krait (*Bungarus caruleus*).—One krait ate 2 frogs from the 11th to 16th October, 1896, and then died; another was

secured on the 7th November, which ate 18 frogs, cast its skin on the 7th December, 1896, 13th January and 27th February, 1897.

"Tree-snake (*Dendrophis pictus*) ate 94 frogs up to 21st January, and died on the 22nd January. Cast its skin on the 2nd April, 6th May, 28th June, 27th July, and 29th October. A second specimen was procured on the 13th February, which ate 18 frogs.

"Russell's viper (*Vipera Russellii*), young, ate 67 mice, 2 small rats, 5 squirrels, and 4 frogs. Cast its skin on the 16th June, 31st July, 6th October, and 27th December, 1896.

"Russell's viper (*Vipera Russellii*) ate 27 rats and 5 squirrels. Cast its skin only once, *i. e.* 17th November, 1896.

"*Echis carinata*.—Two specimens were exhibited on the 29th October, and have up to date eaten only 8 frogs.

"The two aquatic snakes added were *Tropidonotus quincunciatus* and *Atretium schistosum*; the latter is called in Tamil 'Neer nagan,' *i. e.* water cobra, from its power of dilating its head. Both the snakes eat frogs and fishes. *Tropidonotus* laid 36 eggs on the 26th February, 1897."

VI.—Notes on the Cubomedusæ.

By F. S. CONANT*.

IN June and July of 1896, while the Marine Biological Laboratory was stationed at Port Henderson, in Kingston Harbour, Jamaica, two species of Cubomedusæ were found in unexpected abundance. Of these one was very much like the *Charybdea marsupialis* of the Mediterranean, the other presented characteristics midway between those of the Charybdeidæ and the Chirodroididæ—the two families into which Hæckel divides the Cubomedusæ—so that for it I have erected a new family under the name of the Tripedalidæ. The names that have been chosen for the two Jamaica forms are *Charybdea xaymucana* and *Tripedalia cystophora*.

A.—SYSTEMATIC.

Hæckel's classification, as given in his 'System der Medusen,' is as follows:—

* From the 'Johns Hopkins University Circulars,' November 1897, pp. 8-10.